

a moth rare in Monmouthshire. This too was a casualty. Needless to say the site was replanted with the inevitable conifers.

Not very far away, in a small marshy meadow was another Marsh Fritillary colony known to a number of lepidopterists including, I believe, our Editor Mr. J. M. Chalmers-Hunt (1969, *Ent. Rec.*, **81**: 39-46) and Dr. C. G. M. de Worms. This colony, though small numerically, appeared to be in good shape in 1969 and its future seemed reasonably hopeful but soon afterwards this colony too was wiped out through over-grazing by ponies. Herbage that was not consumed was rolled-upon or completely trampled into the mud.

Flying in this same meadow with *aurinia* was the Burnet *Zygaena trifolii palustrella* Verity and this too has gone. As far as I am aware this species has not been recorded elsewhere in the county.

In recent years I have searched for the Marsh Fritillary both in its old haunts and in many new likely-looking localities but without success, and I have not heard reports of any sightings. It would appear therefore that the species has probably been lost to Monmouthshire through disturbance and destruction of its habitat due to building development, coniferisation of woodland, and in one instance through bad husbandry. — Dr. G. A. NEIL HORTON, Plas Newydd, Usk, Gwent.

EUPHYDRYAS AURINIA ROTT. (MARSH FRITILLARY). — In view of Dr. Luckens' paper (*Ent. Rec.*, **90**: 108-112), perhaps the following observations are of interest. In the spring of 1973 about 60 larvae were collected from numerous colonies on Bursdon Moor, Devon. 100% parasitoidism was found in the larvae, there being no way in which this could have occurred during captivity. During the early summer of 1976, several specimens were seen in the area of the Polytechnic, no more than one mile from the city centre of Leicester. — D. HOCKIN, Flexbury End, Poughill Road, Bude, Cornwall.

CRYPTOBLABES GNIDIELLA (MILLIERE) (LEP.: PYRALIDAE) IN BRITAIN. — I have now bred this species in two consecutive years, and it seems probable that it is bivoltine, or even that it may breed in Britain. On 14.x.1976, I cut open a pomegranate containing a larva of this species, and found no evidence that the larva had entered the fruit proper, but it seemed to have confined itself to feeding on the remains of the flower. There was an exceedingly large amount of frass present for one larva, particularly since those which eat dry food usually produce little. Furthermore, I found two pupae — one in a cocoon of silk and frass, and which subsequently produced an imago, and one which had already emerged. This was presumably from an earlier generation, since I had had the fruit for some time, and had only observed one larva (before it pupated) and had bred no imagines. Another pomegranate from the same source was found to contain a larva which was only about two-thirds grown. It would seem